

## REMARKS

Very thanks for Examination's suggestion and thanks for finding some citations about the present invention, thereby, the applicant may know more information about the invention. This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the office action.

Responsive to the objections and rejections made of the Examiner in office action. We have amended the specification, claims and abstracts. The errors disclosed in that office action has been corrected according to the Examiner's indications disclosed in the official action.

Examiner has kindly provides reference prior arts about the present invention, and thus the applicant has more information about the invention. All details of the reference prior arts are fully considered and compared with the present invention.

Indeed the citations disclose some features of the present invention, and the applicant agrees with these viewpoints, however applicant discovers that some main features of the present invention is not disclosed in the citation which can form the novelty and inventive step of the present invention.

Therefore, the applicant decides to cancel Claims 1 to 3, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and add new claim 4. The added new claim 4 is the combination of original claim 1, 2, and 3, and a feature that "~~the claim 1, 2, and 3, and a feature that~~", which is illustrated in Fig. 1 clearly. Thereby, it is assured that the new claims are based on the original claim and specification and thus no new matter is added. The relation of the new claims with respect to the original

claims are shown in the following:

# LIST OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 3, (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (New) ~~1~~ A water-saving toilet comprising a bowl bowl, a water tank, a two-stage flush button for flushing out two different volumes of water from said water tank into said bowl bowl, a water-storing area formed in a bottom of said bowl bowl, a bent passageway formed behind said water-storing area communicating with a drain way, said drain way connected to a drain pipe for wastes to pass through;

~~characterized by~~ said water-storing area having a vertical through hole in its bottom, a valve control device positioned in said bowl bowl and consisting of a valve, a valve cap, a drive rod, and an operating rod; said valve positioned in said through hole of said water-storing area and having a vertical passageway, said vertical passageway connecting said water-storing area with said drain way, said valve cap deposited on said valve to close and open said valve, a push rod connected downward to said valve cap, said push rod extending in said vertical passageway of said valve, said push rod having its lower end pivotally connected to a left end of said drive rod, ~~the drive rod is connected to the lower end of said operating rod~~ said operating rod having its upper end protruding and exposing out of said bowl bowl to be pushed down manually; and,

said outer end of said operating rod exposing out of said bowl bowl pressed down to force said drive rod move said push

rod upward to push up the valve cap to open said valve normally closed in case of using said water-saving toilet, urine of a user mixed with the water in the water-storing area flowing down through said vertical passageway down to said drain way in case of said valve opened, said two-stage flush button pressed to flush out a low volume of water from said water tank into the interior of said bowl ~~bowl~~ through the water-storing area, said bent passageway, said drain way and then into said drain pipe, said toilet cleaned with the low volume of water every time of flushing to save water volume after every round of urinating;

(Content from claim 2) said drive rod of said valve control device having ~~has~~ the right end connected with the left end of a connect rod, the right end of said connect rod connected to said operating rod; said drive rod having a ball block fitted around an intermediate portion near the left end, said ball block contained in a chamber connected to said valve, said ball block functioning as a fulcrum to let the left end of said drive rod move upward when said drive rod is moved down by said operating rod;

(content from claim 3) said operating rod having ~~has~~ a press button fixed on the outer end for a user to manually press down.

~~When the drive rod is moved down, the ball block is pushed up by the operating rod, and the valve cap is pushed up by the drive rod, so that the valve is opened and the water is flushed out.~~

~~When the drive rod is moved up, the ball block is pushed down by the operating rod, and the valve cap is pushed down by the drive rod, so that the valve is closed and the water is not flushed out.~~

~~2. The water saving toilet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said drive rod of said valve control device has the right end connected with the left end of a connect rod, the right end of said connect rod connected to said operating rod; said drive rod~~

~~having a ball block fitted around an intermediate portion near the left end, said ball block contained in a chamber connected to said valve, said ball block functioning as a fulcrum to let the left end of said drive rod move upward when said drive rod is moved down by said operating rod.~~

~~3. The water saving toilet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said operating rod has a press button fixed on the outer end for a user to manually press down.~~

### Discussion about the novelty of the present invention

As comparing the present invention with the citations, I find two points which make the present invention different from the citation.

(1) The citation USP5,873,136 has no driving rod. From Fig. 5 of the citation, it is illustrated that the rod 59 is directly connected to the press button 50, while in the present invention, the driving rod 32 is connected to the operation rod 33.

(2) The citation USP5,873,136 has no connection rod 321 for connecting the driving rod 32 with the connecting rod 33.

(3) In the present invention, "~~the driving rod 32 is connected to the press button 50 and protrudes from the front upper end of the toilet.~~ but in the citation USP5,873,136, the rod 59 with the press button protruded from a lower side of the toilet.

It should be noted, in the present invention, the installation of operation rod 33, driving rod 32, and connection rod 321 is to make the connecting rod with the operating rod 33 can protrude from the front upper end of the toilet, while the design of the citation USP5,873,136 causes that the rod 59 only can protrude from a lower side of the toilet. Thereby, for the citation USP5,873,136, the

operation of the user is inconvenient, even many users do not know the existence of the function provided by the citation. For example, as the toilet is located in a public place, the user is a visitor.

However, the present invention can improve the defect in the prior art because the user can easily find the operating rod and operates it. It is only necessary to give an indication to the press button, the user can easily know the function of the present invention and thus the effect of the present invention can be presented, but the citation USP5,873,136 can not achieve this effect.

#### **(B) RESULT**

Since in above discussion, it is apparent that the cited prior art has no the features of the present invention, especially in new claim 4. Furthermore, as we know that no other prior art has features of the present invention. Thus, the present invention is novel and inventive.

**Applicant requests and authorizes Examiner to amend the claims of the present invention so that the claim can match the requirement of U. S. Patent. Attentions of Examiner to this matter is greatly appreciated.**

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted.

*SHIANG-SHENG CHENG*

Dated: 05 / 11 / 2004

**235 Chung - Ho Box 8-24**

Taipei Taiwan R. O. C.

## **"MARK-UP" COPY OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION**

### **WATER-SAVING TOILET**

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

##### **1. Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to a water-saving toilet, particularly to one having a valve control device consisting of a valve, a valve cap, a drive rod and an operating rod. The valve of the valve control device is positioned on the bottom of a toilet bowl ~~bowl~~, and the valve cap is deposited on the valve to open and close the valve. The operating rod is positioned in the toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ and extends out of the toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ partially. When a user uses the toilet for urinating only, after finishing the action the person first presses down the operating rod to move the drive rod so as to push open the valve cap, and then urine mixed with the water remained in a water-storing area formed in the bottom of the bowl ~~bowl~~ may flow down directly to a drain way in the bowl ~~bowl~~, and then the user next presses down the low volume stage of the press button to flush the low volume of water in the water tank in the toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ and then drain out through the water storing area, the drain way in the bowl ~~bowl~~, and finally into the drain pipe.

##### **2. Description of the Prior Art**

It is a daily routine for people to relieve themselves, and flushing toilets are an indispensable fixture of people's homes in this civilized world, a very important invention for mankind to deal with most detectable and dirty waste. So a large

volume of water should be used for flushing a toilet, and may account for 35 % of the whole water used by a family. So how to save water quantity used by every home is quite an imperative problem, especially during the season of water shortfall.

So a two-stage flushing toilet has been made and is used widely nowadays, provided with a flush button for operating two different volumes of water to be flushed for urine and excrements separately so as to save water in case of urinating only. And the large volume of water may usually be 5.5 liters for flushing excrements and the small volume 4 liters for urine, so therefore 1.5 liters may be saved for one time of urinating. This saved water volume is not so much.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The purpose of the invention is to offer a water-saving toilet capable to use only a little volume of water as small as 1 liter for flushing one round of urinating and still keeping the toilet very clean after flushing.

One feature of the invention is a water-storing area formed in the bottom of a toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ and a vertical through hole formed in the water-storing area.

Another feature of the invention is a valve control device positioned in the interior of the bowl ~~bowl~~ for firstly let urine with the water remaining in the water-storing area to flow together down into a drain way of the bowl ~~bowl~~ by opening a valve closed by a valve cap, and then pressing down the low volume stage of the flushing button is pressed to flush the low volume, say 1 liter, in the bowl ~~bowl~~ and clean it and then drained out into a drain pipe. The valve control device consists



of the valve, the valve cap, a drive rod and an operating rod. The valve is positioned in the through hole of the water-storing area, with the valve cap closed on the valve to open and close the valve by a push rod fitting in the passageway of the valve and possible to be pushed up by the drive rod, which is pushed by the operating rod having its outer end protruding out of the bowl ~~bowl~~ to be pushed manually by a user. Then after finishing urinating the user first pushes down the operating rod to let the urine mixed with the water remaining in the water-storing area may flow down in the drain way. Then the low volume of water of 1 liter is to be flushed out of water tank into the bowl ~~bowl~~ to clean completely its interior, saving water used in one round of urinating.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

This invention will be better understood by referring to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of a water-saving toilet in the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the water-saving toilet in the present invention;

Figure 3 is a magnified cross-sectional view of a valve control device fixed in the water-saving toilet in the present invention; and,

Figure 4 is a magnified cross-sectional view of using the valve control device in the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED

## EMBODIMENT

A preferred embodiment of a water-saving toilet in the present invention, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, includes a toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ 1, a water tank 2, a two-stage flush button 20 for flushing two kinds of water volumes, a water storing area 10 formed in the bottom of the toilet bowl ~~bowl~~ 1, a bent passageway 12 formed behind the water storing area 10, a drain way 11 connected to the bent passageway 12, and a valve control device 3 positioned in the interior of the bowl ~~bowl~~ 1.

The water storing area 10, the bent passageway 12 and the drain way 11 form an ordered drain route, and the drain way 11 is connected to a drainpipe 4 to guide waste material out. Further, the water storing area 10 is provided with a vertical through hole 100 in its bottom to communicate with the drain way 11.

The valve control device 3 consists of a valve 30, a valve cap 31, a drive rod 32 and an operating rod 33. The valve 30 is positioned in the through hole 100 of the water storing area 10, having a vertical passageway 300 for the water in the water storing area 10 to flow down in the drain way 11 without passing through the bent passageway 12.

The valve cap 31 is deposited on the valve 30 to open or close the valve 30, having its bottom connected to a push rod 310, which extends in the vertical passageway 300 of the valve 30. The drive rod 32 is pivotally connected to the push rod 310 with its left end, and a ball block 320 is fitted around an intermediate portion of drive rod 32 near the left end, received

in a chamber 301 connected to the valve 30. The right end of the drive rod 32 is connected with one end of the connect rod 321, which has the other end pivotally connected to a lower end of the operating rod 33. Then the upper end of the operating rod 33 extends slantingly out of the bowl bowl 1, fitted with a press button 330 for pushing down the operating rod 33 for indirectly pushing up the push rod 310 to open the valve 30 for urine mixed with the water remaining in the water-storing area to flow down through the vertical passageway 300 into the drain way 11.

In using, referring to Figs. 1 to 4, in case a person used the toilet for urinating, after urinating the person first presses down the press button 330 to force the operating rod 33 move down, and then the operating rod 33 may push down the connect rod 321. Then the drive rod 32 may push the push rod 310 upward with the ball block 320 functioning as a fulcrum so that the valve cap 31 may be pushed upward to open the valve 30 to let the urine mixed with the water in the water-storing area 10 directly flow down through the vertical passageway 300 into the drain way 11. Next, the person selects to push the low volume of the two-stage press button 20 of the water tank 2 for flushing the low volume of water, 1 liter, to clean the water-storing area 10, the bent passageway 12 and the drain way 11 of the bowl bowl. After flushing, the person pulls upward the operating rod 33 to move the connect rod 321, the drive rod 32, letting the ball block 320 functioning as a fulcrum to let the connect rod 321 move the push rod 310 down so the valve cap 31 closes up the valve 30, with some water remaining in the water-storing area 10, ready for next round of using.

If the save-water toilet in the invention is used for

relieving excrements, the valve control device 3 is not necessary to use, and the large volume of the two-stage flush button 20 is used for flushing out the large volume of water, say 5 liters, from the water tank 2. Then the water with waste together is drained out of the drain way 11 into the drainpipe 4.

The valve control device 3 in the invention is used together with the low volume stage of the two-stage flush button. Then the low volume stage of the flush button of the water tank of the toilet can be adjusted as low as a liter, about 3 liters less than the normal low volume stage, 4 liters, of a conventional two-stage flushing toilet. Suppose that one person uses the toilet six times a day for urinating, with only 1 liter of water used, then the person can save 18 liters a day. Then we, the whole people, living in Taiwan could save water for 150 million tons a whole year, equivalent to the water volume of a large reservoir. Therefore, it is quite evident that the invention can practically save a large amount of water.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been described above, it will be recognized and understood that various modifications may be made therein and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications that may fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.